

PENITENTIARY OF IOWA.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 446.]

MAY 26, 1842.

Mr. HAYS, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the memorial of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Iowa, asking for an additional appropriation to complete their penitentiary, report:

That it appears, from the acts of Congress passed in 1838, that two appropriations, of \$20,000 each, were made for the purpose of erecting public buildings in the Territory of Iowa: the first, by the terms of the law, was required to be expended at the seat of Government; the second designated no point at which the expenditure should be made, but simply for the erection of public buildings in the Territory of Iowa.

The memorial represents that, by an act of the Legislative Assembly, the penitentiary was located at Fort Madison, in Lee county; and the sum of \$20,000 appropriated by Congress, together with an incurred debt of about \$15,000 more, has been expended in the erection of said building, which is yet incomplete. The entire cost is estimated at \$55,000. It appears, from the reports of the directors and superintendent of the penitentiary, that the act of the Legislature of Iowa required the prison should be so constructed as to secure 136 convicts, and on such a scale as to be fully completed at a cost not exceeding \$40,000, exclusive of the labor of convicts. The report of the directors further shows that the estimates were made in conformity with the law, and supposes that the outer walls, warden's house, and 60 cells, may be completed for the sum aforesaid, and that the balance of the projected building might be completed in time by the labor of the convicts. The plan and drawings accompanying the memorial show a very neat, convenient, and durable piece of architecture.

The memorialists urge it as a matter of the highest importance to the Territory that an appropriation be made to secure them against the loss and destruction of material consequent on the half-finished state of the building, which is now so far advanced as to be used for the safe-keeping of criminals. The committee, (without giving their sanction to the practice, too frequently adopted, of anticipating the donations of Congress,, taking into consideration the frontier position of the Territory of Iowa) the rapidity with which it is populating—doubling, as is seen by the census, every two years—the heterogenous character of the population thus

suddenly coming together, as well as the absolute necessity of having a safe and secure place of confinement for those who become amenable to the laws, have concluded to recommend an additional appropriation of \$15,000, and accordingly report a bill.

MAY 28, 1842.

REPORT:

Mr. HAVE, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the memorial of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Iowa, asking for an additional appropriation to complete their penitentiary, report:

That it appears, from the acts of Congress passed in 1838, that two appropriations of \$20,000 each, were made for the purpose of erecting public buildings in the Territory of Iowa: the first, by the terms of the law, was required to be expended at the seat of Government; the second designated no point at which the expenditure should be made, but simply for the erection of public buildings in the Territory of Iowa. The memorial represents that, by an act of the Legislative Assembly, the penitentiary was located at Fort Madison, in Lee county; and the sum of \$20,000 appropriated by Congress, together with an incurred debt of about \$15,000 more, has been expended in the erection of said building, which is yet incomplete. The entire cost is estimated at \$55,000. It appears from the reports of the directors and superintendent of the penitentiary, that the act of the Legislature of Iowa required the prison should be so constructed as to secure 126 convicts, and on such a scale as to be fully completed at a cost not exceeding \$40,000; exclusive of the labor of convicts. The report of the directors further shows that the estimates were made in conformity with the law, and supposes that the outer walls, warden's house, and 60 cells, may be completed for the sum aforesaid, and that the balance of the projected building might be completed in time by the labor of the convicts. The plan and drawings accompanying the memorial show a very neat, convenient, and durable piece of architecture. The memorialists urge it as a matter of the highest importance to the Territory that an appropriation be made to secure them against the loss and destruction of material consequent on the half-finished state of the building, which is now so far advanced as to be used for the safe-keeping of criminals. The committee, (without giving their sanction to the practice, too frequently adopted, of anticipating the donations of Congress) taking into consideration the frontier position of the Territory of Iowa, the rapidity with which it is populating—doubling, as is seen by the census, every two years—the heterogeneous character of the population thus